5450371/2022/OP-WDC01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PUBLIC SERVICES – WD&CW Dept., – Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now retired) – Irregular maintenance of stock registers, variations in Project stock register and stock distribution register and F.C.R. – Misappropriation of Government Funds – under Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules 1991 - Articles of Charges – Issued.

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DEPTT FOR WOMEN CHILDREN DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS (Estt)

G.O.Rt.No.12. Dated:21-01-2022.
Read :-

G.O.Ms.No.2, Dept., for WCDA & SC, dated: 21.01.2022.

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ORDER:-

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal), Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charges (Annexure-I). A statement of imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each article of charge is enclosed (Annexure II). A list of documents by which, and a list of witnesses by whom, the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure III & IV).

3. Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) is directed to submit within 10 days of the receipt of this order, a written statement of her defense.

4. Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charges as are not admitted. Hence, she should, therefore specially admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) is further informed that if she does not submit her written statement of defense on or before the date specified in para-3 above, further action will be processed based on the material available.

6. Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further her interests in respect of matters pertaining to her service under the Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings,

it will be presumed that Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this G.O. along with the copies of the basis of charges be acknowledged.

[BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH]

A.R. ANURADHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now retired) (through Director, WD&CW)
The Director, WD&CW, Guntur (with a direction to serve the charge memo tothe charged officer and furnish the served copy, with dated acknowledgement to Government, for record).
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT SHOWING ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT S. ELIZABETH, THE THEN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER (NOW RETD), ICDS PROJECT, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR DISTRICT

Charge No. 1: That Smt. S.Elizabeth, CDPO(Retired), while working as Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, has misused the Palm Oil stocks of 1207 boxes (16 liters) in collusion with Sri M.Ganga Naik, Data Entry Operator, ICDS Project Piduguralla, and allegedly signed in the distribution register without distributing the Palm Oil stocks to the Anganwadi Centers from 02/2015 to 07/2015. Thus, she caused huge loss of Rs.12,35,968/- to the Government under the Supplementary Nutrition Food Scheme and is responsible for misappropriation amounts.

Basis: Rc.No.11.24/21/A1/2018, dt: 24.09.2019 of Regional Joint Director, WD&CW, Ongole.

Charge No.II: That Smt. S.Elizabeth, CDPO(Retired), while working as Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, has intentionally not filed criminal case against Sri M.Ganga Naik, Data Entry Operator, ICDS Project Piduguralla, who was the Godown In-charge at the time of misuse of Palm Oil stocks without distributing to the Anganwadi Centers from 02/2015 to 07/2015 even though the Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, had given instructions for filing a criminal case against him.

Basis: Rc.No.11.24/21/A1/2018, dt: 24.09.2019 of Regional Joint Director, WD&CW, Ongole.

Thus, Smt. S. Elizabeth, CDPO (Retired), by her above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government servant and thereby contravened the Rule 3(1) (2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules 1964.

A.R. ANURADHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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ANNEXURE-II

Statement of imputations of misconduct and misbehaviour in support of the articles of charge framed against Smt S.Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer(nor retd), Piduguralla, Guntur District.

Charge No. 1: That Smt. S.Elizabeth, CDPO(Retired), while working as Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, has misused the Palm Oil stocks of 1207 boxes (16 liters) in collusion with Sri M.Ganga Naik, Data Entry Operator, ICDS Project Piduguralla, and allegedly signed on the distribution register without distributing the Palm Oil stocks to the Anganwadi Centers from 02/2015 to 07/2015. Thus, she caused huge loss of Rs.12,35,968/- to the Government under the Supplementary Nutrition Food Scheme and is responsible for misappropriation amounts.

Charge No.II: That Smt. S.Elizabeth, CDPO(Retired), while working as Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, has intentionally not filed criminal case against Sri M.Ganga Naik, Data Entry Operator, ICDS Project Piduguralla, who was the Godown In-charge at the time of misuse of Palm Oil stocks without distributing to the Anganwadi Centers from 02/2015 to 07/2015 even though the Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, had given instructions for filing a criminal case against him.

2. Facts and evidences of the case:

3. The Assistant Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, has visited the ICDS Project Piduguralla on 19/8/2015, and found the following irregularities in distribution of Vijaya Palm Oil.

I. The details of Bill number, amount and Agency have not been mentioned in the Stock Register.
II. There are 500 Oil boxes in the Bill Dated 26/2/2015 whereas only the 406 Oil boxes have been shown in the Stock Register.
III. 531 Oil boxes have been received on 16/3/2015, and a total of 1031 Oil boxes have been received for the months February and March, but as per the records, only 937 Oil Boxes have been distributed to Supervisors, and there has been no record on distribution of 94 Oil boxes.
IV. As per the Bill No.4, dt:16/3/2015, the Project has received 356 Oil Boxes, and the same has been acknowledged by the Data Entry Operator, but there has been no stock entries in the Stock Register.
V. As per the Bill No.71, dt:28/4/2015, the Project has received 1020 Oil boxes, and the same has been acknowledged by the Data Entry Operator. The entries have been made in the stock register at page nos.14 and 15 as 521 Oil Boxes and 500 Oil Boxes. There has been entered in the stock register that 521 Oil Boxes have been distributed and also entered that 500 Oil boxes have been distributed to Supervisors. But only the 484 and 480 Oil Boxes have been distributed to Supervisors.
VI. In the stock register at page no.1, dt:6/6/2015, entries have been made as 550 Oil boxes have been received and distributed to Supervisors. But the stocks distributed to Supervisors have not been reflected in the Food Consolidated Registers.
VII. As per the stock register, receiving of 276 Oil boxes vide Bill No.276, dt:7/7/2015 has been entered, and mentioned that 300 Oil boxes have been distributed to Supervisors. But only the 266 Oil boxes have been distributed to Supervisors.

3. As per the visit remarks of the Assistant Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, the Project Director, DW&CDA, has called for explanation from S.Elizabeth, CDPO, ICDS Project, Piduguralla vide memo no.1307/A4/2015, dt:20/8/2015.

4. Vide Rc.No.25/15, dt: 08/09/2015, Smt. S.Eligibeth, CDPO, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, has submitted explanation that there was negligence of Data Entry Operator and due to her non supervision over receiving and distribution of stocks to Supervisors, the misuse of stocks have been occurred in the Project hence she requested to forgive as it is the first mistake. Further, she stated that the Data Entry Operator was not attending to duties since 22/8/2015 after he was warned on this issue.

5. As per the statements dt: 21/8/2015 given by Smt.S.Elizabeth, CDPO, she stated that the Sri M.Ganga Naik, DEO, has not worked properly, and one day the DEO has asked her for signatures in the register hence she made signatures in the register by mistake without verifying the signatures of Supervisor. Further, vide RC.No.15, dt:18/9/2015, Smt.S.Eligibeth, CDPO Piduguralla, has informed the Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur that M.Ganga Naik, DEO was not attending to duties since 22/8/2015.

6. The Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, vide memo no.1406/A1/2015, dt:22/9/2015, has instructed to notice the irregularities committed by Sri M.Ganga Naik DEO and file criminal case against him immediately under intimation. Further, vide memo no.1406/A1/2015, dt:05/11/2015, the Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, has called for explanation from Smt.S.Eligibeth, CDPO for not submitting action taken report on filing criminal case against the Data Entry Operator.

7. The Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur, vide memo no.1406/A1/2015, dt:16/11/2015, has called for explanation from Smt.S.Elizabeth, CDPO, noticing that she has shown negligence of duties and failed to submit report on the misuse of stocks by the Godown In-charge and not recovering misappropriation of amount and not filing criminal case against the Data Entry Operator. It has been noticed that misappropriation of funds shall be fixed against her if she failed to submit her explanation within the time.

8. Meanwhile, while enclosing the complaint petition of Sri K.Harinatha Babu, R/o Tenali, Guntur District, the Government, vide memo no.12027/8/2017/Estt.A3-1, dt:5/7/2017, has requested to get the matter enquired and submit a comprehensive report along with specific remarks to the Government. Accordingly, vide memo no.3669/V1/2017, dt:18/7/2017, the RJD, WD&CW, Ongole was instructed to conduct detailed enquire the matter and submit enquiry report.

9. Vide Rc.No.11.24/21/A1/2018, dt: 24.09.2019 the Regional Joint Director, Women Development and Child Welfare Department, Ongole has submitted enquiry report stating that as verified from the distribution of stock register and Food Consolidated Register, the following variations were found during the period from 02/2015 to 07/2015.

Sl.No.	Month	Supplies as per Stock Register in boxes.	Distributed stock as per register in boxes	Supplies received as per FCR in boxes	Variation in boxes
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	02/2015	566	566	0	566
2	03/2015	937	937	112	825
3	04/2015	521	521	885	+364
4	05/2015	500	500	420	80
5	06/2015	550	550	484	66
6	07/2015	300	300	266	34
	Total	3374	3374	2167	1207

Sl.No.	Total Oil Bloxes misappropriated	No. Ltrs i.e. in each box	Average rate per Ltr.
1.	1207	16 Ltrs i.e. total 19,312	64.00

10. The Regional Joint Director, WD&CW, Ongole has concluded that on the verification of the available records and Food Consolidated Register and statements given by the Supervisors, there is variation of 1207 Oil boxes (19,312 ltrs), which amounts to misappropriation of Rs.12,35,968/-.

11. Therefore, Smt. S. Elizabeth, former CDPO, Piduguralla, now retired, being the head of the project, has completely failed to perform her responsible duties as per the job chart and shown negligence of duties. She failed to verify the stock registers and signed in the stock registers without cross checking which has led to misuse of Palm Oil stocks i.e. 19,312 liters which amounts to misappropriation of Rs.12,35,968/-. She has intentionally not filed criminal case against Sri M.Ganga Naik, Data Entry Operator, through the Project Director, DW&CDA, Guntur had given several instructions to her.

12. Vide Memo.No.12027/8/2017/Estt.A3-6, Dated 29-11-2021, the Government desires to initiate disciplinary action against Smt.S.Elizabeth, CDPO (Retired) for misuse of Palm Oil stocks to a tune of Rs.12,35,968/- and not filing criminal case against Sri M.Ganga Naik, Data Entry Operator.

13. Thus, Smt. Elligibeth, former CDPO, ICDS Project Piduguralla, (Presently retired from service) by her above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government servant and thus violated Rule 3 (1) (2) of the APCS conduct Rules 1964.

14. The Government servant has therefore rendered himself liable for departmental action for appropriate penalty.

A.R. ANURADHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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ANNEXURE-III

List of documents by which the articles of charge framed against Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Pidguralla, (now Retired) are proposed to be sustained.

Basis:- Rc.No.11.24/21/A1/2018, dt:24-09-2019 of Regional Joint Director, WD&CW, Ongole.

A.R. ANURADHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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ANNEXURE-IV

List of witnesses by whom the articles of charges framed against Smt. S. Elizabeth, the then Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Project, Piduguralla, (now Retired) are proposed to be sustained.

--NIL—

A.R. ANURADHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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